

SENATE BILL 240

By Kurita

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56,
relative to establishment of a uniform health care
provider credentialing application.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 5 of this act as a new chapter.

SECTION 2. No later than July 1, 2006, the commissioner of commerce and insurance, in consultation with representatives of health insurance entities as defined in § 56-7-109 and health care provider groups that seek credentialing, including but not limited to the Tennessee Medical Association, shall develop and promulgate by rule both a uniform credentialing application and a uniform recredentialing application, both of which shall:

(1) contain standardized instructions for completing the application forms;

(2) include any attachments that may be required to be submitted with either application; and

(3) create standardized responses to questions and other information required on the forms,

for health care providers and health insurance entities to use in the submission of applications by providers seeking credentialing or recredentialing by a health insurance entity.

Once the application forms are developed, the department shall have a copy posted on the department's Web site in a file that can be easily downloaded and copied.

SECTION 3. When a health insurance entity recredentials a health care provider, the health insurance entity shall provide a minimum of ten (10) business days to reply to complete a recredentialing application or provide updated information.

SECTION 4. The commissioner of commerce and insurance shall notify representatives of health insurance entities and health care provider groups who have been chosen to participate in the development of the uniform credentialing application and a uniform recredentialing application no less than ten (10) days prior to any and all meetings concerning the development of the applications to enable such organizations and representatives to provide input on the development of such forms.

SECTION 5. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate public necessity rules to carry out the provisions of this act in accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5. Any regulation so adopted shall specify an effective date after which no health insurance entity may require health care providers to complete credentialing or recredentialing application forms differing from those prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.